

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation

State Highway Patrol Responses to Questions Posed – 2/21/2011

Highway Patrol Aircraft:

The State Highway Patrol owns 9 aircraft, 8 of which were obtained through military surplus. Two additional OH-58 airframes are cannibalized for parts. Those additional airframes will never fly—they are just used for parts. The OH-58 models were built for use in the Vietnam War so most of them are more than 30 years old.

The Program Evaluation Division (PED) released a study of all state-owned aircraft in March 2010. On page 18 of that report, PED illustrated that the State Highway Patrol is the only agency in the state that fully implements all of the expected measures the Division had for their study. The Patrol's Aviation program works in partnership with local, county, federal, and other state agencies to pursue fugitives, find missing persons, and other public safety needs of the state.

Vehicle Replacement Schedule:

New law enforcement vehicles are purchased based on the following criteria for replacement. State Highway Patrol policy states that vehicles are replaced at 75k miles, or every three (3) years; however, due to the budget, the mileage limit was raised to 90k in FY 2009-10. Staff vehicles and specialized units were only replaced on an as-needed basis.

Effective, January 1, 2011, vehicles were placed on the following schedule:

Troopers assigned vehicles	100k
Sergeants	110k
F/Sgts.	120k

Lieutenants and above will be replaced as-needed and as vehicles become available. When replacements arrive, those vehicles assigned to Lts. and above have 50K miles or more.

Sworn/Non-sworn Positions:

The State Highway Patrol currently has 1,827 sworn positions funded; 1,713 of those positions are filled and 114 are vacant. As with any law enforcement agency, it takes approximately six months to train someone to be a law enforcement officer. A Basic Patrol School is running currently, which should fill about half of those vacancies. Due to constraints at the Training Academy, the Patrol is limited on the size of each graduating class at the Academy. The 2010 Appropriations Act allocated \$2,043,440 in capital dollars to plan for new buildings, which would help to meet the need in training troopers. The Patrol does not expect construction to be funded in 2011, but is hoping that it might become a priority soon. The time spent at the Training Academy is the time when future troopers learn how to survive ugly situations in the field.

The patrol also has 547 non-sworn positions; 26 of those positions are vacant.